

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 1 to lines 15 as follows:

A relay apparatus of this invention [comprises] includes a packet receiving unit for receiving an input packet, data length detecting unit for detecting the data length of said packet received by said receiving unit, time interval detecting unit for detecting the communication time interval of said packet received by said receiving unit, and band setting unit for setting the communication band of a channel for sending out the packet received by the packet receiving unit, based on the data length detected by the data length detecting unit and the communication time interval detected by the time interval detecting unit. The packet includes an actual time when the packet itself has been transmitted and the time interval is determined by calculating a time interval between said actual time when the packet itself has been transmitted and an actual time when another packet has been transmitted, the packet and the other packet received at a different time from each other by said packet receiving unit. Since the communication band is set based on the data length and the communication time interval of received packet, it is possible to secure the communication band necessary in practice to transmit the received packet, and assure a suitable service quality.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 16 lines 3 to lines 12 as follows

In the same way as above, the minimum cell rate may be calculated after establishment of the switched virtual connection SVC. That is, every time the SVC is set, the minimum cell rate mCR may be calculated first only once, and this calculated value set in the STM ATM switch 24. Thereby, the load of the CPU 32 can be relieved as compared with the case where the minimum cell rate mCR is calculated at all times. Since the minimum cell rate mCR is set every time the

switched virtual connection SVC is set, the optimal communication band, i.e., service quality can be assured for every set connection.